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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Wei-Qiang Gao) Group Art Unit : 1614
Appl. No. : 09/849,868) Confirmation NO: 1085
Filed : May 4, 2001) Amendment Under
For : HAIR CELL DISORDERS) 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Examiner : C. Delacroix-Muirheid)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

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Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 6, 2002, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter the following amendments to the claims and to consider the following arguments.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph 24, the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 14 of the specification, to read as follows:

FIG. 7A-7C show the deduced amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:11) and cDNA sequence (SEQ ID NO:12) of γ -HRG. The hydrophobic region is underlined. The EGF-like domain is shaded, cysteine residues in the EGF-like domain are circled. N-linked glycosylation sites are marked above the nucleic acid sequence with a (*).

Please amend paragraph 152, the paragraph beginning on page 27, line 29 of the specification, to read as follows:

Another heregulin variant is γ or gamma-heregulin. γ -HRG is any polypeptide sequence that possesses at least one biological property of native sequence γ -HRG having SEQ ID NO:11. The biological property of this variant is the same as for heregulin noted above. This variant encompasses not only the polypeptide isolated from a native γ -HRG source such as human

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